

# God's Appointed Times & the Ethiopian Calendar

This document outlines God's appointed times (Moedim) according to Scripture, explains the biblical first day and first month, and ties in Ethiopian calendar insights. God established time in Genesis and instructed Israel to mark months and feasts by His order, not man's. The Ethiopian calendar, being seven to eight years behind the Gregorian calendar, remains closer to biblical reckoning of time.

## The First Day: Sunday

Scripture reveals that the first day of creation and the first day of the biblical week is Sunday. Genesis records the first day when God created light. The New Testament affirms this when Jesus rose on the first day of the week.

*Genesis 1:1–5 – ‘And the evening and the morning were the first day.’*

*Matthew 28:1 – Jesus rose ‘toward the dawn of the first day of the week.’*

*Mark 16:2 – ‘Very early in the morning the first day of the week...’*

*Acts 20:7 – The disciples gathered on the first day of the week.*

## The First Month According to the Bible

The biblical first month is called Abib (later Nisan). It begins in the spring, around March/April (Gregorian), aligning with the barley harvest. This is when Passover occurs.

*Exodus 12:2 – ‘This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.’*

*Leviticus 23:5 – ‘In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, is the LORD’s Passover.’*

## God's Appointed Times by Month

**Month 1 (Abib/Nisan):** Passover (14th), Feast of Unleavened Bread (15th–21st), Firstfruits.

**Month 3 (Sivan):** Feast of Weeks (Pentecost/Shavuot, 50 days after Firstfruits).

**Month 7 (Tishrei):** Feast of Trumpets (1st), Day of Atonement (10th), Feast of Tabernacles (15th–22nd).

## Ethiopian Calendar & Biblical Time

The Ethiopian calendar runs seven to eight years behind the Gregorian calendar. It preserves 13 months (12 of 30 days each plus a short 13th month), aligning more closely with biblical agricultural cycles and feast seasons. This calendar highlights how Western time systems, such as the Gregorian calendar (1852 reform), diverged from God's appointed order.

## Scriptural Foundations of Appointed Times

*Genesis 1:14 – ‘Let there be lights in the firmament... for signs, seasons, days, and years.’*

*Exodus 12:2 – God sets the first month during the Exodus.*

*Leviticus 23 – Full listing of the Feasts of the Lord.*

*Deuteronomy 16 – Further instructions on Passover, Weeks, and Tabernacles.*

## **Summary**

God's appointed times reveal His order in creation and redemption. The first day of the week, Sunday, marks the beginning of God's order in creation and was confirmed by Christ's resurrection. The first month, Abib/Nisan, begins in spring and anchors the feasts. By aligning with the biblical first day and month, believers remember His covenant. The Ethiopian calendar provides a living witness of an alternative system of timekeeping closer to biblical truth than the Western Gregorian calendar.